/83 cont./

3. The Activities of the City

1. Commerce.

433 If we except the period of conquest, during which a handful of troops established themselves in the entrenched camp, the primary function of Thiès was commerce.

441 An escale of trade in its beginnings, Thiès has re-
433 mained that up to our times. Almost 25,000 tons of groundnuts are commercialized each year in spite of the opening of important points of trade in the vicinity, Tivaouane, Khombole, located some 30 kilometers from there. This commerce demands a certain taste for risk; if in certain years it offers appreciable profits, it sometimes renders the balance sheet of the merchants who practice it very precarious. The groundnut trade, as far as purchase from the pro-
[563] ducer is concerned, is almost entirely in the hands of the
[442] Levantines and a few Moors and Blacks. The important establishments, N. O. S. O. C. O. (8) and the Soucail firm,

8. N. O. S. O. C. O. Nouvelle Société Commerciale.

engage only in wholesale trade.

443 The factorerie run by a Levantine (9) next to the

[162] [563] 9. The Levantines are 48 in number, namely, 23 Syrians and 25 Lebanese (figures of 1952).

courtyard of the secco (10) has kept all its picturesqueness

[257] 10. Secco: mass of groundnuts stored in the courtyard of the merchant and destined for export.

[438] up to our day. /84/ Everything is sold there, from the piece of trade cloth in vivid colors to cheap perfume; kerosene by the liter and millet by the kilo or sack are retailed there.

22: Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

Gambia, often in rotation with ground-nuts. Of the quick-maturing varieties *souna* and *sanio* are the most popular, the former thriving in sandy soil, the latter in heavier ground. Several kinds of sorghum are also cultivated. In the river area millet is sown where the floods have subsided and is harvested in April. In other parts it is planted immediately before the rainy season. Production probably averages about 300,000 tons annually. The export of millet from one province to another is controlled according to local needs.

Rice. The area flooded by the Casamance is naturally suited for rice cultivation. The rice-fields are handed down from father to son, each family growing sufficient for its own consumption and to pay its taxes. A store of rice is always kept to guard against a lean year or to be exchanged for some other commodity required.

Sugar-cane. This is grown near every village where there is enough water. No attempt has been made to commercialize the crop, and the West African varieties are more woody and contain less juice than those grown elsewhere for export. Sugar-cane (*Saccharum officinarum*) is a perennial plant of the grass family. It is easy to grow, even near the sea, but takes at least a year to mature. When grown for local use, as it is here, sugar is not extracted, but the red or white stems are chewed.

The Baobab. The baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) is found generally in the thornland (Plate III), and is, therefore, much in evidence in Senegal. It is remarkable for the large girth of its trunk in comparison to its branches and leaves. The long green fruit, known as monkey-bread, is used as a food or as a seasoner. Boiled with water and then cooled, it also makes a refreshing drink, while the leaves and the young shoots are also good to eat. The inner bark yields a tough fibre, which can be twisted into rope or woven into a waterproof cloth. About 30 years ago a factory was opened at Dakar to prepare the fibre for export to rope- and paper-making firms in France. The bark and fibre can be stripped off without causing the death of the tree.

Manioc, beans, and maize are grown generally in the vicinity of villages. In the Cape Verde peninsula these, as well as yams, sweet potatoes, and melons, are grown for the Dakar markets.

Economic Crops

Ground-nuts. Ground-nuts (*Arachis hypogaea*) require a tropical climate and an annual rainfall of from 14 to 60 inches. They are the

22:Winterbotham et al. K-4 (no date) 1944 MS37 Senegal MS 37

tunity for much development in this industry, particularly in the irrigated areas of the Casamance Territory and Sine-Saloum. Europeans own the majority of the plantations, but co-operate with and encourage native growers. During the first quarter of 1939 production in Tambacounda province was 152 tons, and the factory at Kolda treated 165 tons of fibre.

Ginger. The ginger plant (*Zingiber officinale*) is of Asiatic origin, but it has been cultivated in Africa for many centuries. It is grown on a small scale wherever the rainfall is over 30 inches. It does best in a rich soil and requires shade. The ginger of commerce is prepared from the rhizome or underground stem, which is mature when the leaves turn yellow. The best ginger is prepared from immature rhizomes, which are peeled and preserved in sugar syrup, but in West Africa the coarser, mature stems are also used. Chewed ginger is reputed to enhance the stimulating effect of kola.

Pimentos. Several species of *Capsicum* or peppers grow in the Federation. In Senegal the most common are *C. annum* and *C. frutescens*, both bearing red fruits. The former was introduced from South America. It is less pungent and has larger fruits, known as 'capsicums'. *C. frutescens* has hotter fruits, known in commerce as 'chillies'. Cayenne or paprika is the red powder obtained from grounding the fruit. Pepper shrubs are grown from seeds, and after three months bear fruit for at least six months. These red peppers should not be confused with the common pepper, which is a climber and does not grow in West Africa.

Henna. This plant (*Lawsonia inermis*), like sugar-cane, maize, ginger, and castor oil, is grown wherever there is enough water. The plant is much revered by Moslems and often grown as a hedge. The powder of the young, dried leaves is the source of henna dye.

Other Crops. Other products of which small quantities are exported are citrus fruits, gum arabic, shea butter, cotton, kapok, and palm kernels.

Livestock

Livestock are fewer here than in any other colony. Sheep and goats, the latter being the more numerous, are kept near the river between Podor and Bakel and number about 100,000. There are some 310,000 cattle, 50,000 donkeys, 6,000 camels, and 14,000 pigs. These last are mainly kept in the Casamance Territory. There are 36,000 horses. These are of two breeds, the M'Bayar and the M'Par, and

/127 cont./

654 474 244 From 1907 to 1910, storehouses were built to shelter the seeds. In 1910, these storehouses were multiplied in order to be more within the reach of the borrowers. On December 6, 1910, a decree of the governor of Senegal approved the [251] definitive statutes of this society. The latter, on the basis of the experience of several years, have just been supplemented and revised.

The society of Sine-Saloum has 19 sections distributed throughout the circle.

As early as 1911 it had 160,000 members, and its cash on hand amounted to 139,499 francs. Its storehouse stock was 317 tons of selected seed.

Today, the society has property valued at more than 1 million. It has an annual income and expenditure budget of 5 million, including the value of the seeds which it keeps /128/ in its storehouses for the loans that it grants to its members for reimbursement in kind.

Since it demands an interest of 20%, it very rapidly increases its stock of seed. Thus, in 1928 it was holding more than 5,000 tons of seed. By 1929, it will have 7,000 tons. This is the precious guarantee for a fruitful harvest.

[242] Because all of this seed is carefully selected by the native chiefs under the control of the administrator, with methodical rigor. Although some chiefs are less strict in the selection, the majority understand their role. In the cantons of Diokoul Gandiaye, Kahone, Birkelane, and in those of Sine, Sokone, Sanghako, Koungheul, and Kaffrine, the seeds are sorted one by one, and only the shells with two nuts are accepted.

The cultivator quickly yields to these requirements, because he has recognized the necessity for them.

These loans are made in the month of June, before sowing time. They are repayable in kind in the month of December, after the harvest, with an interest of 20%, the said interest likewise payable in kind.

No defaults have been reported. The loans are for two hectoliters per cultivator.

/128 cont./

654 474 In order to enjoy these advantages the society member pays an assessment of one franc per year.

244 [731] He can also request and obtain loans of food, rice, or millet, if he is justified by a case of great necessity: scarcity as a result of an unfortunate or calamitous event.

[426] Finally, since last year, he has been able to obtain loans in money on the condition of certain guarantees. These loans are granted for cultivation, and also for the improvement of his agricultural equipment, or for starting or enlarging his herd. These loans may amount to as much as 5,000 francs and are to be paid back within several years.

654 474 In 1927, the members numbered 240,000.

The society has 30 storehouses, more than half of which are built out of permanent materials: laterite stones or cement.

[251] [343] [312] /129/ It has utilized its resources to make wells out of reinforced concrete in order to procure for the inhabitants the potable water necessary for their needs and for the needs of their animals.

It gives bonuses to the cultivators who exhibit the best harvests. It also awards bonuses for the capture of animals harmful to agriculture.

The work accomplished is remarkable.

[244] The increase in the production of groundnuts in the circle is due to the Société de Prévoyance, under the control of the administration.

In it, commerce has a valuable organization whose usefulness it recognizes and whose incontestable and uncontested services it moreover appreciates.

312 The water problem. Wells. The serious question of water presents itself in the circle as it does everywhere in Senegal. The economic life of the region depends on the water supply of its inhabitants.

In order to prevent the danger of a water shortage, it has been necessary to dig wells. The séanes, natural reservoirs or pockets dug by man, were too small in number. They received rain water, but their volume was limited, and a few weeks sufficed to empty them after the last rainfall.